GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:183
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
INTER-STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA;RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have convened any meetings to resolve water disputes amongst various States;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to resolve the said disputes ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.183 TO BE ANSWERED ON 3.12.2001 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING INTERSTATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES.

The Government, under the provisions of the Interstate Water DisputesAct 1956, constituted tribunals for adjudicating the water disputes for the Godavari, Krishna and Narmada waters. These water dispute tribunals have already given their awards.

The Ravi and Beas Water Dispute between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Cauvery Water Disputes between the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry were alsoreferred to the Tribunals under the provisions of Inter- State Water Disputes (ISWD) Act, 1956 in April, 1986and June 1990 respectively. The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunalsubmitted their first report in January, 1987. The Central Government and party States have sought explanations/guidance from the Tribunal under Section 5(3) of the ISWD Act, 1956. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order on June 25, 1991. At present, Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is holding regular hearings for adjudicating the Cauvery Water Dispute. No other dispute has been referred to the Union Government for adjudication by any of the State Governments.

Three meetings of Cauvery River Authority and nine meetings of Cauvery Monitoring Committee were held for monitoring the implementation of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's Interim Order.

Efforts were made to convene meetings with Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on February 2, 2000,September 11, 2000 and June 27, 2001 to discuss water related issues pertaining to these States. However, these meetings could not materialize.

In order to expedite the adjudication process of inter-State waterdisputes, the Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2001 proposing inter-alia a definite time frame for constituting a Tribunal and giving the award was introduced in the Lok Sabha in March 2001. The said Amendment Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabhain August 2001 and is now under consideration of the Rajya Sabha.